

# Engine Freezes Up

## 1 Peter 4:12

*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.*

There was another incident that took place that I'm embarrassed to tell you about because it was entirely my fault. I was delinquent in taking care of my car properly. You have to understand, we were earning a mere \$75 a week, so I didn't have any money to spare for scheduling proper maintenance. It was my Galaxy 500. We had just finished our Thanksgiving eve service and somebody had given us a \$25 gift. We decided that was enough to get us to Michigan to visit my family and then turn around and come back for Sunday services that weekend.

We drove to Michigan and had a wonderful time with family. After Thanksgiving was over we decided to drive back late on a Saturday in order to get back for church on Sunday. While we were traveling on the Ohio Turnpike the car engine began to knock very heavily. It sounded like there was something seriously wrong with it. We pulled off at one of the rest areas that had a gas station hoping someone on duty could help us figure out what was wrong. Well, nobody had any solutions and nobody had any mechanic on duty on a holiday weekend. We had to get off the turnpike and look for a gas station with a garage to help. We inquired at several places if there was a mechanic on duty that could help us find the problem. No mechanics were available on a holiday weekend.

So, we had no choice but to drive on hoping to get home safely. Soon the check oil light went on and began blinking at us. I checked the oil level to see if it needed more, but it seemed to be full. I even bought some more oil and poured some STP into the engine as well. We drove from the middle of Ohio all the way back to Clymer, Pennsylvania, all the while praying that the Lord would somehow get us home safely or provide a mechanic that could fix our car since no garages were open that weekend.

We got to Pennsylvania driving the back roads to get to Clymer. By then the car was really making a racket. It felt like it was falling apart, like the whole thing was going to blow up on us. We prayed and asked the Lord to help us get home. We entered our back driveway and pulled up to the garage and stopped. Immediately the engine quit and wouldn't start again. It had completely frozen up.

God allowed us to get home safely and we were glad. We were able to get back for Sunday morning services. We knew that we had an expensive repair to do on

the car and had to have it towed somewhere. As I said, we were not wealthy, we made \$75 a week and that was not much even back then in the early 70's. We had no extra cash, that's why \$25 as a gift was given to us so we could go to Michigan. We were able to arrange a tow to get the car to the next town with a Ford dealer to look it over.

When we finally got the call from the Ford Dealer he was very upset. He said, "Young man do you realize what happened here? You have not changed oil and filter in your car for a long time. The oil was so dirty it clogged up the oil pump so that oil could not circulate. While you were traveling the oil pump couldn't pump the oil so your engine was running without oil for at least 300 miles. It was a miracle that you ever got home safely."

I tell you that story not because I'm proud of it but because God is merciful and gracious to those who are stupid, those who are less than careful, and those who are not mechanical. Even in our stupidity God is gracious and good. When we make mistakes, and even when it's our fault, God is faithful to protect us.

**"When God put a calling on your life  
He already factored in your stupidity."  
-- Graham Cooke**